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ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: JUNE 4, 1974

SUBJECT: MEMBER OF PORTUGUESE JUNTA REQUESTS US AID

GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO, A MEMBER OF PORTUGAL'S MILITARY JUNTA AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT SPINOLA, RECENTLY SPOKE TO THE US DCM IN LISBON OF PORTUGAL'S EXPRESSING NEED FOR THREE TYPES OF US AID:

--GENERAL ECONOMIC AID

--US ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THE "COMMUNIST THREAT"

--US SUPPORT OF PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL POLITICAL STABILITY

STRESSING THAT HE WAS RAISING THESE MATTERS OFFICIALLY.

3 GALVAD DE MELO SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT FOR THE

2. MOMENT IS ECONOMIC AID. HE ENDORSED PRESIDENT NIXON'S SUGGESTION

1. THAT THE MECHANISM FOR SUCH AID COULD BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE

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State Department review completed

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CURRENT AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE US WOULD HELP DEAL WITH THE "COMMUNIST THREAT" BY NOTIFYING THE USSR AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT PORTUGAL IS WITHIN THE US SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. FINALLY, GALVAO DE MELO SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE PORTUGUESE REGIME TO KNOW THAT THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO INTERVENE, PHYSICALLY IF NECESSARY, TO PREVENT DOMESTIC CHAOS OR COMMUNISM.

GALVAO DE MELO GAVE NO INDICATION THE THE JUNTA ACTUALLY FEARED EITHER SOVIET INTERVENTION OR DOMESTIC CHAOS. ACCORDING TO RECENT EMBASSY ASSESSMENTS, THE JUNTA IS IN FIRM CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY.

THE PLEA FOR ECONOMIC AID MAY BE THE FIRST SALVO IN PORTUGUESE DEMANDS CONCERNING THE AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THE BASE AGREEMENT EXPIRED IN FEBRUARY. THERE IS A SIX-MONTH PERIOD OF GRACE ON NEGOTIATIONS, AND SO FAR THE PORTUGUESE HAVE BEEN EVASIVE ABOUT THE QUID PRO QUO.

IN THE SAME CONVERSATION, GALVAO DE MELO TOLD THE DCM THAT HE PLANS TO LEAVE THE JUNTA SOON IN ORDER TO FOUND A CENTRIST

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POLITICAL PARTY. THE PARTY WILL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELECTION OF HIMSELF AS VICE-PRESIDENT AND FOR GENERAL SPINOLA AS PERMANENT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. THE PARTY WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL COSTA NGONES. GALVAO DE MELO FIRMLY DENIED RUMORS THAT SPINOLA PLANS TO CALL A SNAP ELECTION WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH.

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